

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 F16L1/20

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 F16L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	US 2003/091395 A1 (STOCKSTILL LYLE) 15 May 2003 (2003-05-15) paragraph '0127! - paragraph '0136!; figures 13, 14A-14H -----	1-12
A	US 6 361 250 B1 (DE VARAX HERV EACUTE) 26 March 2002 (2002-03-26) column 7, line 16 - column 7, line 60; figures 18-25 -----	1-12
A	US 5 449 252 A (MALOBERTI RENE ET AL) 12 September 1995 (1995-09-12) the whole document -----	1-12



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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- \* & \* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 July 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

28/07/2004

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